



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORMER EMPLOYEE AT LICENSE BUREAU OFFICE IN LIBERTY INDICTED FOR ISSUING FRAUDULENT LICENSES

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a former employee of the state license bureau office in Liberty, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury today for mail fraud and producing false identification documents.

Careli Rodriguez, 22, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged in a four-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Rodriguez was employed by the Missouri Department of Revenue, Motor Vehicle and Driver's License Contract Office located at 1170 W. 152 Hwy. in Liberty at the time of the alleged offenses. According to today's indictment, **Rodriguez** issued Class A Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDLs) to persons who had not provided proof that they had passed the required written test and driving skills test. **Rodriguez** allegedly issued the CDLs to these individuals in return for payments to her of up to \$1,500.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Rodriguez** committed mail fraud when she mailed a fraudulent and unlawful License Verification Statement for a CDL in the name of Manuel Padilla from the contract office in Liberty to the headquarters in Jefferson City, Mo. According to the indictment, Manuel Padilla was actually an undercover law enforcement officer who approached **Rodriguez** on Aug. 27, 2005, while she was working at the Liberty contract office. The officer told **Rodriguez** that he wanted to upgrade his Class F driver's license to a Class A CDL. She allegedly had the officer read one line on an eye examination chart, took his photograph for the license, and issued him a Class A CDL without requiring proof that he had passed the required written test and driving skills test.

According to the indictment, the undercover officer made arrangements with **Rodriguez**

to pay her the agreed-upon price of \$1,500 for the CDL by placing the money in her vehicle in the parking lot.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Rodriguez** committed mail fraud when she mailed a fraudulent and unlawful License Verification Statement for a CDL in the name of Tony Montana from the contract office in Liberty to the headquarters in Jefferson City, Mo. According to the indictment, Tony Montana was actually an undercover law enforcement officer who approached **Rodriguez** on Dec. 10, 2005, while she was working at the Liberty contract office. The officer told **Rodriguez** that he wanted to upgrade his Class F driver's license to a Class A CDL. She allegedly took his photograph for the license and issued him a Class A CDL without requiring proof that he had passed the required written test and driving skills test.

According to the indictment, the undercover officer made arrangements with **Rodriguez** to pay her the agreed-upon price of \$1,500 for the CDL by meeting her at a nearby parking lot.

Count Three of the indictment alleges that **Rodriguez** produced an identification document – a Missouri Class A Commercial Driver's License in the name of Manuel Padilla – without lawful authority on Aug. 27, 2005.

Count Four of the indictment alleges that **Rodriguez** produced an identification document – a Missouri Class A Commercial Driver's License in the name of Tony Montana – without lawful authority on Dec. 10, 2005.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney D. Michael Green. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Missouri Department of Revenue.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html